


proved release 2001/07



FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

Spy for 18 Years

By Don Cook
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

PARIS.

The case is forcing a complete revision of Swedish war plans at a cost estimated at about \$200 million. In fact, so widespread and detained were Wennerstroem's activities that the damaging disclosures concerning the defense plans for Lapland were only a secondary part of his work. An indirect penetration of NATO and U. S. defense secrets appears to have been his primary mission.

The Strategy

NATO's Northern Command has based its Norwegian planning on the assumption that any Soviet attempt to advance overland across the north would encounter substantial Swedish resistance, providing time for Norway to mobilize and for NATO reinforcements to be sent from other areas.

Virtually all of the active Norwegian Army, a brigade plus supporting artillery and special troops—is concentrated in the Trondheim area around the airbase at Bartholfs. To the south is the key port of Narvik and to the north lies the city of Tromsø. This is the communications hub of north Norway, and must be held if Norway is not to be split in half.

On the assumption that Sweden would be able to offer a strong and effective "backdoor" defense, Norway and the U.S. have concerns about the threat of invasion from the sea in the north.

Complicated Task

But now, the task will be vastly more complicated.

If there is any direct contact between the Norwegian and Swedish defense staffs, it is of an extremely secret nature. Both governments would deny it absolutely, and quite possibly it does not exist. **et the military and strategic involvement of the two countries is a geographic and political fact of life.**

For example, Swedish iron ore, mined in Lapland, moves on a Swedish-owned railroad line across Norway to the port of Narvik for shipment by boat to Goteburg. And at the Norwegian port of Trondheim in the north, the Swedes have huge tank storage facilities, and have surveyed a pipeline route across Norway into Sweden.